ADVENTURES IN WILDSPACE

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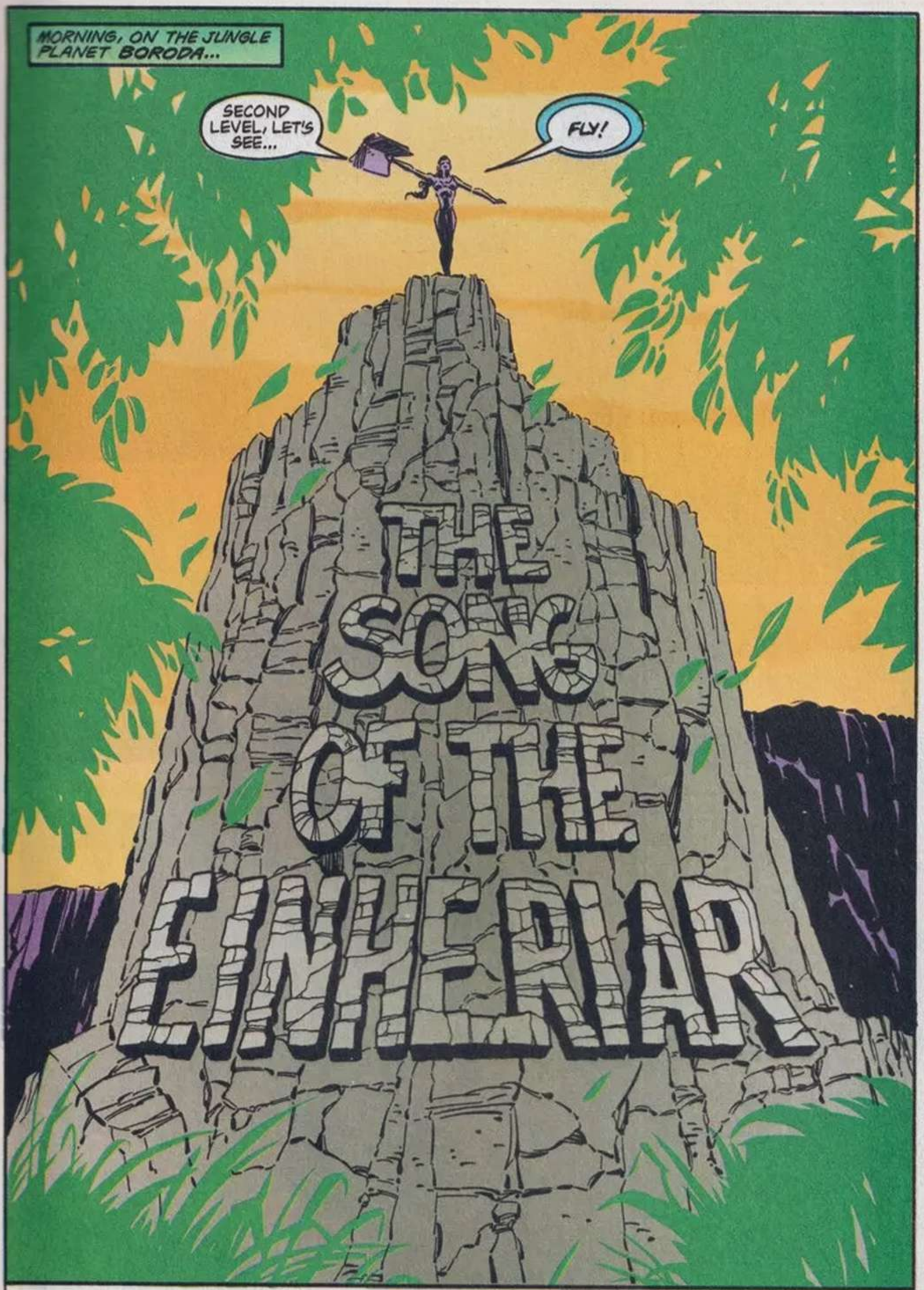

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IT WORKS! IT WORKS!

I FEEL LIKE I COULD FLY!

MONTHS AGO, AN EVIL DRAGON CALLED WILDFYRE AGED TENAH'S BODY TO THAT OF A WOMAN.

HOWEVER, INSIDE SHE IS STILL A CHILD.

AND A CHILD SHOULD NEVER PLAY WITH MAGIC...

TENAH!!

FATHER?!

NO... LOST MY CONCENTRATION...

I'M...

--IN BIG TROUBLE, YOUNG LADY.

BORS' MOTHER IS THE SPELLJAMMING WIZARDESS MEREDITH. THEY HAVEN'T SEEN EYE TO EYE IN YEARS.

TENAH IS HIS MOTHER'S SPITTING IMAGE.

HE WILL NOT STAND FOR TENAH'S FOLLOWING IN HER GRANDMOTHER'S FOOTSTEPS.

JUST WHAT KIND OF TROUBLE HAVE YOU BEEN GETTING INTO THIS TIME, TENAH?

WHERE DID YOU FIND YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S SPELLBOOK?

AND TELL ME WHY YOU WANTED IT AT ALL.

I... I THOUGHT... I THOUGHT I MIGHT LEARN A FEW THINGS... AND ...AND MAKE THINGS A LITTLE MORE EXCITING...

"EXCITING"?! DID YOU SAY "EXCITING"? AS IF THINGS HAVEN'T BEEN "EXCITING" ENOUGH AROUND HERE!

YOU REMIND ME OF SOMEONE VERY STUPID THAT I USED TO KNOW--*ME!*

I SUPPOSE YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD GET TEMBER TO NOTICE YOU WITH A SPELL OR TWO?

NO, FATHER! I MEAN...WELL ...I GUESS IT'S SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

"SOMETHING LIKE THAT," HUH?

YOU COULD DO BETTER THAN TEMBER. ONE DAY, YOU COULD HAVE ANYONE YOU WANT. *AND YOU WONT NEED ANY MAGIC!*

WHY DID YOU GIVE UP MAGIC, FATHER? WAS IT BECAUSE OF GRANDMOTHER?

DON'T LET HER HEAR YOU CALLING HER "GRANDMOTHER"! SHE LIKES TO BE CALLED MEREDITH THESE DAYS, DON'T ASK ME WHY!

YES, I SUPPOSE IT WAS BECAUSE OF HER...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, DO YOU *LOVE* HER OR *HATE* HER!

"WHEN I WAS YOUNG, YOUR GRANDMOTHER WAS KNOWN AS *NIMONE*. TOGETHER WE LOOTED THE GALAXY RUTHLESSLY AND WITH GREAT SUCCESS. THEN SHE HAD ME ATTEMPT TO ROB THE CITADEL OF THE KEEPERS OF THE FLAME -- AND *I FAILED*."

FROM THIS DAY FORWARD YOU WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO IGNORE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG.

NEVER!

"I WAS A VERY DIFFERENT YOUNG MAN BEFORE I MET THE SORCERER KOUROS. AFTERWARDS, I WAS NEVER THE SAME."

"I DIDN'T THINK SO AT THE TIME, BUT NOW I BELIEVE THAT IT WAS THE BEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO ME. FOR I BEGAN TO SEE THAT MY MOTHER'S WAYS COULD NOT BE MY WAYS..."

YOU SAY YOU'LL *TAKE* THE SHIP! WONDERFUL!

I BELIEVE WE SAID 100,000 CREDITS!

I SAID WE'D *TAKE* IT!

I NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT PAYING FOR IT!

"*LOVE OR HATE*"? FEELINGS AREN'T AS CUT AND DRIED AS THAT, TENAH. YOU CAN BE BOUND TO SOMEONE BY STRONG TIES AND STILL BE IN CONFLICT AT THE SAME TIME.

DON'T KILL HIM, MOTHER!

I ALWAYS TOLD YOU THAT A CONSCIENCE WAS A BURDEN THAT YOU CAN DO WITHOUT!

DIMENSIONAL DOORWAY!

IF I KEEP ON LISTENING TO YOU, MOTHER, I'LL BE JUST LIKE YOU! BUT FROM NOW ON, I'LL BE MY OWN MAN!

AND IF YOU WON'T TELL ME WHO MY FATHER WAS, I'LL BE FREE FROM YOU, MOTHER, ONCE AND FOR ALL!

STOP DISTRACTING ME! I CAN SENSE DANGER!

"LOSING THE ARCANE WASN'T AS EASY AS WE HAD THOUGHT. HE HAD A SHIP DOCKED IN HIS DIMENSIONAL CLOSET..."

NIMONE, YOU AND YOUR NO-GOOD SON WILL PAY FOR THIS! NO ONE CHEATS AN ARCANE WITHOUT REGRETTING IT!

THAT FOOL OF AN ARCANE IS CHASING US! WOULD YOU BE KIND ENOUGH TO WORK A SPELL AND KILL HIM FOR ME, BORS?

FROM NOW ON YOU CAN WORK YOUR OWN SPELLS, MOTHER.

BUT RIGHT NOW, YOU'D BETTER TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!

THAT BLAZOZOID WON'T GIVE US ANY TIME FOR MAGIC!

MAYBE IT WILL DISPOSE OF THAT IDIOT OF AN ARCANE FOR US!

ARCANES AREN'T FOOLS, MOTHER. THEY'RE VERY INTELLIGENT, AS A MATTER OF FACT.

WITH A LITTLE LUCK HE'LL BE DEAD AND IT WILL CEASE TO MATTER.

IF YOU COULD STOP BEING SO BLOODTHIRSTY YOU MIGHT REALIZE THAT WE'RE BEING DRAWN OFF COURSE!

LOOK, THIS MUST BE SOME KIND OF SPELL...

YES, OUR SHIP IS OUT OF OUR CONTROL AND I CAN SENSE THAT MY MAGIC IS DIMINISHED HERE.

WE'LL HAVE TO USE OUR WITS IF WE HOPE TO GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE.

AND IF WE GET OUT ALIVE, MOTHER, I GO MY OWN WAY AND YOU WON'T TRY TO STOP ME?

THE ONLY WAY YOU COULD EVER BE FREE OF ME IS TO GIVE UP MAGIC, BORS. BUT THERE'S NO CHANGING THE FACT THAT MAGIC IS IN YOUR BLOOD.

WATCH ME! AND WHEN I DO, SWEAR THAT YOU WILL NOT INTERFERE.

WELL?

ALL RIGHT, BORS, HAVE IT YOUR WAY. BUT REMEMBER THAT IF YOU USE MAGIC *I WILL KNOW* AND YOU WILL HAVE LOST YOUR GAMBLE.

"AND THROUGH THE WRECKAGE A HORDE OF GHOSTLY IMAGES TRAVELED THROUGH THE WRECKAGE OF THE SEA OF LOST SHIPS..."

WHO... WHAT ARE THEY, MOTHER?

EINHERIAR, BORS! THE SPIRITS OF SLAIN WARRIORS WHO ARE BOUND TO THIS PLACE!

WHO KNOWS WHAT WE MAY ENCOUNTER HERE. IT'S BETTER IF WE PUT OFF OUR LITTLE WAGER FOR SOME OTHER TIME.

OH, NO, MOTHER! I HOLD YOU TO YOUR WORD! IT'S NOW OR NEVER FOR ME!

BESIDES, I'VE HEARD OF EINHERIAR. THEY'RE LAWFUL GOOD. WE SHOULD HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THEM.

DON'T BE OBSTINATE, BORS! WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT DANGERS WE MAY FACE IN THIS PLACE.

AND JUST WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?

TO SCOUT THIS ACCURSED PLACE. THAT'S THE BEST WAY TO FIND OUT WHAT DANGERS WE FACE.

WAIT! HELP ME WORK A PROTECTION SPELL FOR OUR SHIP.

IF YOU WANT TO TRAP ME YOU'LL HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT!

NO MORE MAGIC FOR ME, REMEMBER? AND NO TELEPATHY EITHER! LET'S SEE IF MY WITS ALONE ARE ENOUGH TO KEEP ME ALIVE.

BORS, REMEMBER THAT EVEN IF YOU FIND ME HARD AND COLD, I AM FOND OF YOU--*IN MY FASHION.*

MOTHER... I... I...

...I'LL BE BACK.

"AMID THE WRECKAGE THAT SPANNED AS FAR AS THE EYE COULD SEE WAS A STRANGELY FAMILIAR SIGHT...

WHAT IN ALL THE PHLOGISTON?!

IT'S SAID THAT A DELPHINID WILL GIVE A RIDE TO A STRANDED SAILOR. HOW ABOUT A LIFT?

HERE I TRY TO MAKE YOU A FAIR DEAL AND THIS IS THE THANKS I GET! I'LL PAY YOU 50 AND NOT A CREDIT MORE!

YOU CALL THAT *FAIR?!* YOU CHISELING, TIGHT-FISTED ARCANES ARE ALL ALIKE!

THANKS, OLD FELLOW.

WELL, IT'S A SMALL GALAXY, ISN'T IT? SO IT'S BUSINESS AS USUAL, EH, "SLIM"?

WHAT...?

YOU! YOU OWE ME MONEY, YOU THIEF!

SO! THAT'S NOT AN OFFER, THAT'S AN INSULT!

HOW DARE YOU SHOW YOUR FACE AFTER ROBBING ME OF MY PRIZED VESSEL-- THE FAIREST CRAFT IN THE PHLOGISTON! I SANK MY FORTUNE IN HER AND YOU CUT OUT MY HEART!

YOU TOLD US IF WE'D SCAVENGE EQUIPMENT FOR YOU, YOU'D PAY US 100 CREDITS FOR A SPELLJAMMING HELM ALONE, ARCANE!

A "HEART"? YOU HAVE A HEART? OH, COME ON, SLIM, YOU DIDN'T PAY MUCH MORE FOR THAT NAUTILOID THAN YOU'RE PAYING THESE CHATTURS FOR THIS SALVAGE. SO, WHO'S A THIEF?

NOW YOU OFFER US ONLY 50 FOR A CHAIR, YOU MISERABLE CHEAT!

OH, MY BROTHER ARCANES! BEWARE OF THIS CRUEL YOUTH! HE'S ROBBED ME AND NEARLY CAUSED ME TO BE BURNED ALIVE BY A BLAZOZOID! NOW HE TAUNTS ME AND CASTS ASPERSIONS ON MY INTEGRITY!

COME ON, FORK IT OVER, ARCANE!

YOU HEARD HIM, YOU CHEAP SPACE SCUM! *PAY* UP OR *WISH YOU HAD!*

THESE CHATTURS ARE GIVING YOU A PRETTY STRONG TESTIMONIAL, SLIM!

COME ON, COME ON, WHERE'S THE MONEY, ARCANE?

ALL I EVER TRIED TO DO WAS TO BRING COMFORT TO THE NEEDY IN ORDER TO MAKE A SMALL PROFIT FOR MYSELF! AND NOW YOU'VE CHEATED ME OUT OF 100,000 CREDITS!

ALL RIGHT, SLIM, I'LL PAY YOU!

YOU WON'T GET ANY MORE SALVAGE UNTIL WE GET THE PRICES YOU ORIGINALLY OFFERED US!

EVERYONE ABUSES AN ARCANE, EVERYONE...

YOU SAID-- *WHAT?*

I'LL PAY YOU WHAT I CAN, WHEN I CAN. AT ANY RATE YOU'LL GET IT.

IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, YOUR CLIENTS ARE GETTING AWAY.

ALL RIGHT, MY FRIENDS, THE ORIGINAL OFFER STANDS! AN ARCANE'S WORD IS HIS BOND!

REMEMBER, I HAVE A VISION AND I WANT YOU TO SHARE IT--*"SLIM" THE HONEST ARCANE--USED SPELLJAMMING EQUIPMENT KING OF THE GALAXY!*

I LIKE THE WAY THAT ROLLS OUT!

I'M SURE WE'RE ALL SUITABLY IMPRESSED.

THAT WAS 120,000 CREDITS FOR THE NAUTILOID, RIGHT?

100,000.

FOR YOU, 100,000 CREDITS IT IS. MY GENEROSITY WILL BANKRUPT ME!

NOW ABOUT THE PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS...

YOU HAVE TO TAKE MY I.O.U., SLIM. I'M SORT OF BETWEEN THINGS RIGHT NOW.

A PROMISE FROM A MAGIC-USING PIRATE?! NO OFFENSE INTENDED...

A REFORMED PIRATE WHO'S THROUGH WITH MAGIC...

WHAT'S THAT? WHY ARE THE CHATTURS RUNNING AWAY?

LOOK HERE, WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS HOW YOU'RE GOING TO PAY ME...

YOU LOOK HERE! WHAT IS THAT?

OH, NO...

ANCIENT MARINERS! EVIL GHOST WARRIORS! IF THEY CATCH US I'LL BE OUT OF BUSINESS FOR GOOD.

I HAVE TO WARN MY MOTHER...

NO, IT'S TOO RISKY! THEY AREN'T THE *ONLY* THING WE HAVE TO FEAR IN THIS PLACE.

"MY MOTHER ALSO KNEW THAT THERE WAS MUCH TO FEAR IN THIS PLACE..."

BORS... BORS, WHY MUST YOU SHUT OUT MY TELEPATHIC COMMUNICATIONS WHEN THERE IS SUCH DANGER HERE?

THE PIRATES OF GITH! WE CAN EXPECT NO MERCY FROM THEM!

NOW HERE'S A PIRATE'S PRIZE FOR YOU!

BEST TO TAKE HER TO *LOTHOS!* HE'LL SWING US FROM A YARDARM IF HE FINDS OUT WE DIDN'T.

THAT DOESN'T APPEAL TO *ME!*

FIRE SHIELD!

A SORCERESS! HA, HA, HA...

REMINDS ME OF THAT WIZARD WE CAPTURED NOT LONG AGO. HE JUST COULDN'T UNDERSTAND...

FFTHTP!

...WHY HIS MAGIC DIDN'T WORK IN THIS PLACE.

WHAT IS THIS? WHY DOESN'T A SIMPLE SPELL WORK?

TOO MANY GHOSTS HERE, WITCH. TOO MANY DAMNED SOULS WHO NEVER ESCAPED THIS PLACE. THEY RUIN THE VIBRATIONS FOR MAGIC.

BUT THAT SUITS US JUST FINE! BECAUSE NOW YOU GET TO JOIN THEM!

"THE CHATTURS LED US TO THE PIRATES' FLAGSHIP..."

THE CHATTURS WERE RIGHT. THEY'RE PIRATES OF GITH--AND *THEY'VE CAPTURED MY MOTHER!*

I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO BE FREE OF HER.

I DO, ENOUGH TO RENOUNCE USING MAGIC. BUT SHE'S *STILL* MY MOTHER.

YES, BUT YOU DIDN'T UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING THE CHATTURS SAID ABOUT THESE PIRATES. THEY DIDN'T KNOW THE COMMON WORD FOR IT...

THIS BAND HAS *CERTAIN APPETITES...*

HERE'S A TRIBUTE FOR YOU, LOTHOS! I GAINSAY YOU'LL NOT FIND A TASTIER MORSEL IN ALL THE PHLOGISTON!

TASTY IS AS TASTY DOES, M'LAD...

YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU COULD TASTE MUCH MORE THAN SOME SOFT MUSH, OLD MAN.

AH, BUT THOSE OF US WHO HAVE THE *HUNGER*...

...HAVE FOUND WAYS TO...

...*COMPENSATE!*

YES, THESE PIRATES OF GITH ARE *CANNIBALS.*

SHE'S MY MOTHER, SLIM, I CAN'T DESERT HER. AND THE ONLY WAY I CAN SAVE HER IS TO RESORT TO MAGIC.

AND IF I GIVE IN TO THAT, I'LL SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE AS MY MOTHER'S SLAVE... INSTEAD OF...

WHAT...?

...MY OWN MAN!

GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME!

THIS WAY, LADS! LET'S SHOW THIS LOVELY CREATURE EVERY COURTESY-- MUSTN'T HAVE HER THINK WE'RE ILL-MANNERED! HEH, HEH, HEH...

LET ME GO BEFORE MY SON FINDS YOU! YOU WON'T LIKE WHAT HE'LL DO TO YOU!

AND TRY NOT TO BURN THE MEAT THIS TIME, YOU FOOL!

WHEN DID I EVER BURN THE MEAT?!

WHEN DID YOU EVER *NOT* BURN THE MEAT...

BEWARE THE WRATH OF BORS, SON OF NIMONE!

FOOMF!

WHO ARE YOU?

A NIGHTMARE TO ALL THOSE WHO DARE TO OPPOSE ME!

IS THERE ROOM FOR HIM ON THE SPIT?

NO, BUT WE COULD MAKE SOME STEW. I'LL WAGER HE'LL MAKE A NICE STEW!

FOOLS! YOU DARE TO TRIFLE WITH ME?! THAT COULD SHORTEN YOUR LIFE EXPECTANCY!

YOUR MAGIC MAY NOT WORK AS WELL AS YOU THINK IN THIS PLACE, SORCERER! THERE ARE TOO MANY GHOSTS HERE. THEY INTERRUPT THE VIBRATIONS FOR SPELLS!

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO TAKE THAT RISK?

AS A MATTER OF FACT, I THINK WE WILL. I'M HUNGRY!

THEN HERE'S SOME HORS D'OEUVRES!

HOPE YOU LIKE IT WELL DONE!

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, MOTHER!

ZOK!

SON, I THOUGHT YOU HAD *RENOUNCED* MAGIC?!

I HAVE! ALL I USED WAS A LITTLE EXPLOSIVE POWDER FROM AN ARCANE'S DIMENSIONAL CLOSET AND A LOT OF NERVE!

ALL RIGHT, MR. SLEIGHT OF HAND, THEN HOW DO WE GET OUT OF HERE?

WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS!

HURRY, SLIM! CAN'T YOU MOVE THAT SHIP ANY FASTER?

OH NO! NOT *HIM!*

WHAT'S THE MATTER, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN A *GHOST!*

AS A MATTER OF FACT...

...THAT'S JUST WHAT ANCIENT MARINERS ARE!

NOW, YOU GOT ME INTO THIS! GET ME OUT!

BORS, THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE OURSELVES IS TO JOIN FORCES IN A SPELL! TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE IT WORK!

AND LOSE MY WAGER, MOTHER? NO, I'D RATHER DIE THAN BE A SLAVE TO YOUR WILL!

IT SOUNDS LIKE A TERRIFIC DEAL TO ME! BUT YOUR OPTION IS RUNNING OUT!

ONE LAST TIME, MOTHER...

...ONE LAST TIME!

SUMMON SWARM?

THEN YOU'LL SEE US ALL DEAD, BORS!

PLEASE, BORS, YOU PROMISED ME 100,000 CREDITS IF I'D HELP YOU-- NOT ETERNITY AS AN ANCIENT MARINER!

THEN I'LL JOIN YOU ONE MORE TIME IN A SPELL -- BUT AFTER THIS I'M FREE! IS IT A BARGAIN, MOTHER?

I HOPE THIS WORKS BETTER THAN THE LAST TIME I TRIED IT!

SUMMON SWARM!

IT'S BEGUN...

YES, BUT WILL WHATEVER IT IS WORK IN TIME? THAT'S ALL I WANT TO KNOW!

THE EINHERIAR!

ONCE THEY WERE THE PROUD KNIGHTS OF ASTRYLON, UNTIL THEY WERE SLAUGHTERED IN A GREAT BATTLE WITH OVERWHELMING FORCES.

ONCE SUMMONED TO BATTLE IN THE CAUSE OF LAWFUL GOOD THEY CANNOT REFUSE--

--NOT EVEN ME.

THE KNIGHTS OF ASTRYLON? I NEVER HEARD OF THEM, YET THEY SEEM SO FAMILIAR...

MOTHER, I NEVER SAW YOU AFRAID BEFORE...

I NEVER HAD BETTER REASON.

LOOK, EVEN THE CHATTURS KNOW THAT THERE IS NO PLACE TO RUN NOW!

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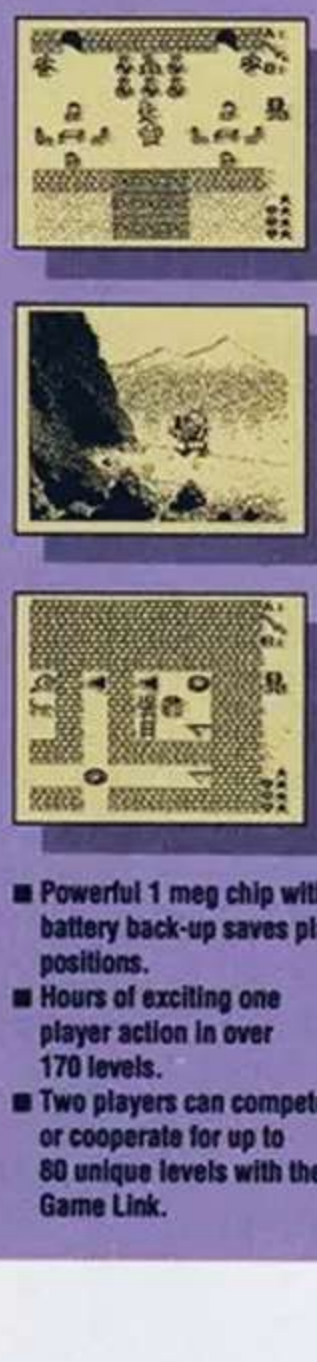

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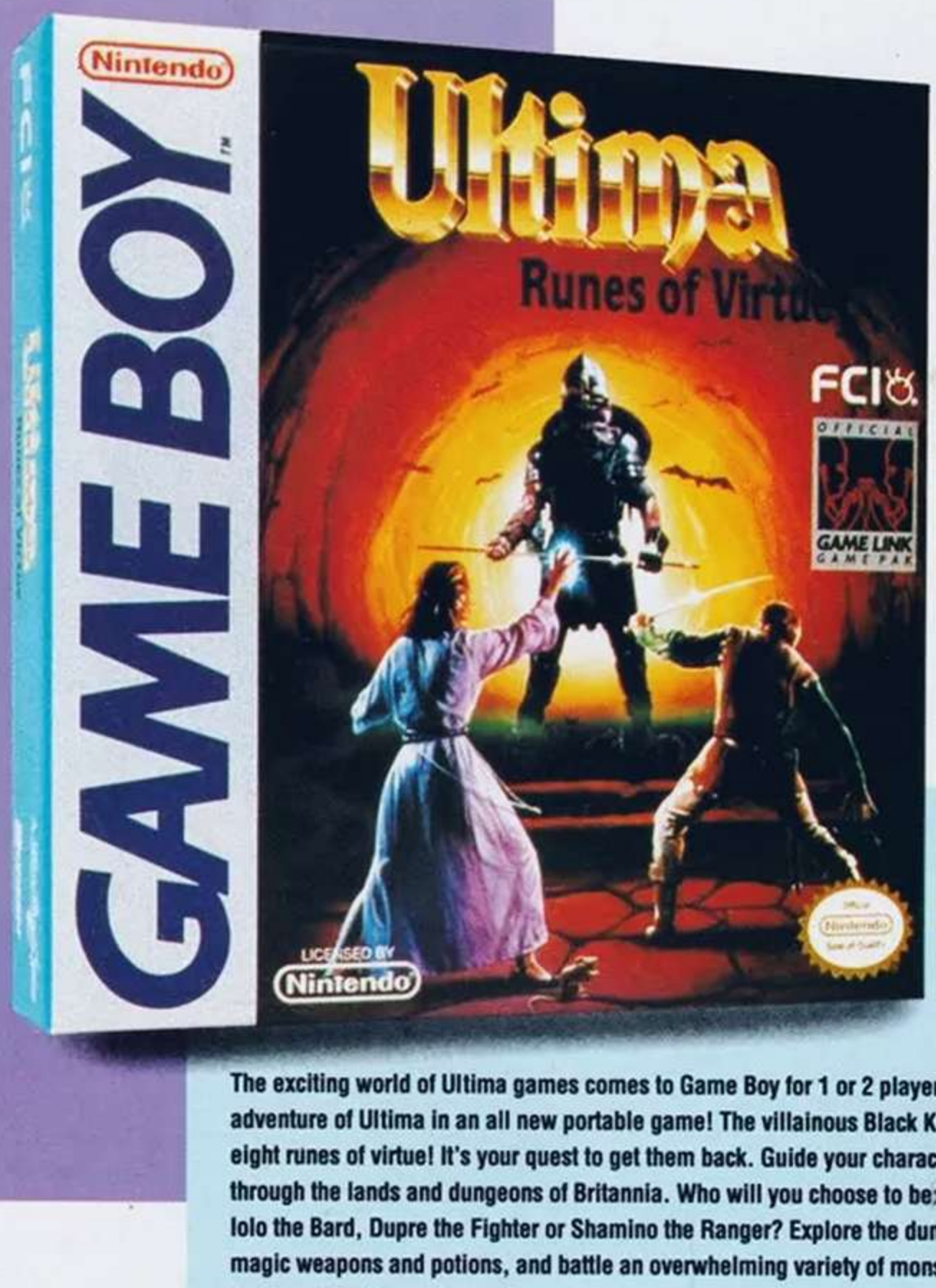

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